



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FORMER U.S. ARMY FIRST LIEUTENANT SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON FOR  
PRODUCING AND DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton** announced that in El Paso this afternoon, 27-year-old Gary Alan Hernandez, Jr., a former First Lieutenant with the 204<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence at Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas, was sentenced to 236 months years in federal prison for producing and possessing child pornography.

In addition to the prison term, United States District Judge Philip Martinez ordered that Hernandez pay a \$1,000 fine and be placed under supervised release for a period of ten years after completing his prison term.

On December 6, 2006, Hernandez pleaded guilty to one count of production and one count of possession of material involving the sexual exploitation of children. By pleading guilty, Hernandez admitted that on April 16, 2005, he enticed a minor female to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of photographing such activity and distributing the photographs via the Internet.

This undercover investigation began in February 2005, when the defendant was looking for someone online to coordinate distribution and sales of sexually explicit photographs of minors he produced. On August 3, 2005, agents with the El Paso division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation executed a search warrant at the defendant's residence. Agents seized several computers, computer media, three cellular phones and several digital and film cameras. A forensic review discovered more than 600 photographic images and one video of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct located on the defendant's computers.

"Those who sexually exploit and prey on our children are pure evil. The scars that they leave on the spirits of our kids seldom go away," stated United States Attorney Johnny Sutton.

This case was investigated by the El Paso Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney William F. Lewis, Jr., and Laura Franco Gregory prosecuted this case on behalf of the Government.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood—a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims.

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